



State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Name of Proposal: LETHAL CONTROL OF CROW AND RAVEN TO PROTECT THREATENED AND ENDANGERED WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER

Description of Proposal:

The Pacific coast population of the western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*) is federally listed as threatened, and is listed as endangered in Washington State. Western snowy plover populations in Washington continue to persist below recovery objectives and predation has been identified as the primary factor limiting population growth. Although a number of species are potential predators [e.g. coyotes (*Canis latrans*), hawks, falcons, owls, weasels (*Mustela* spp.), etc.], American (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and northwestern crows (*C. caurinus*) and common ravens (*C. corax*) are the primary predators of snowy plovers in Washington. In response to the effects of predation on snowy plover recovery efforts, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) plans to implement lethal predator control efforts to improve snowy plover fecundity and survival.

The intent of the predator control program being proposed is to remove individual predators that pose a threat to nesting snowy plovers rather than apply population level control strategies. Consequently, the overall effects of control actions on predator species would be temporary and localized in nature and will not significantly impact their local or range-wide populations. Species that could potentially be targeted for removal include coyotes, raptors, gulls, corvids, and small mammals (e.g. weasels and mice). However, corvids are the primary predators of snowy plovers in Washington and WDFW anticipates the removal of other species to be an uncommon necessity.

Lethal control could include any or all of the following: shooting; euthanasia in conjunction with live traps; padded-jaw leg-hold traps; nets; snares; gas cartridges; DRC-1339 (avicide); nest removal and egg destruction; snap traps; or zinc phosphide bait (rodenticide). However, only the most effective and humane tools that are suitable for each set of individual circumstances will be used to lethally remove predators. To ensure control measures are conducted in the most humane and efficient way possible, WDFW plans to contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service–Wildlife Services (APHIS–WS) to manage all aspects of the predator control effort.

Proponent/Applicant: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDFW Region 6 Headquarters
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Location of Proposal: Pacific and Grays Harbor Counties:

Copalis Spit: T19N, R12W, S16; T19 N, R12 W, S21

Damon Point: T17N R12W, S24

Midway Beach: T15N, R11W, S18; T15N, R11W, S19; T15N, R11W, S30; T15N, R11 W, S31

Graveyard Spit: T14N, R11W, S11; T14N, R11W, S12

Leadbetter Point: T13N, R11W S04; T13N, R11W, S05; T13N R11W S08; T13N R11W, S17;
T13N, R11W, S20; T13N, R11W S29; T13N. R11W, S32; T12N, R11W, S05; T12N, R11W
S08; T12N, R11W S17; T12N, R11W, S20; T12N R11W S29

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

WDFW has determined that this proposal will likely not have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Therefore, state law¹ does not require an environmental impact statement (EIS). WDFW made this determination of nonsignificance (DNS) after we reviewed the environmental checklist and other information on file with us.

We issued this DNS according to state rules.² We will **not act on this proposal for 14 days** from the date we issued the DNS. Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on this proposal or DNS. We must receive your comments within 14 days of the date of this letter. This means we must receive your comments by **January 29, 2013**.

Method of Comment:

The following procedures shall govern the method to comment on agency SEPA proposals. Comments received through these procedures are part of the official SEPA record for this proposal.

You can submit your comments any one of the following ways:

- Email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov
- Online at the WDFW SEPA website comment link at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/>
- Fax to (360) 902-2946;
- Mail to the address below.

Responsible Official: Bob Zeigler

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

After the comment period closes, applicants may view the updated status of this proposal on the WDFW SEPA website: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/sepa/> Once the status is posted as final, applicants and permittees may take action on the proposal. When a proposal is modified or withdrawn, notice will be given in accordance with state law.¹

If you have questions about this DNS or the details of the proposal, contact Bob Zeigler at the address, e-mail, or fax number above; you can also call him at (360) 902-2578.

DATE OF ISSUE: January 14, 2013

SIGNATURE: 

Footnotes

1. RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c)
2. WAC 197-11-340(2).

SEPA Log Number: 13- 007. dns